

Introduction

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This year's conference is held at a time when there are many changes on many fronts worldwide. The climate for libraries is changing. The internet is now a household amenity. Budget restraints in a time of economic downturn lead institutions to reconsider the value of libraries and librarians.

But all is not gloom and doom. Librarians are embracing change and are participating in new initiatives. The Information or Library Commons is now where college students hang out, new modes of communication are in place – the newest iPhone was just released, MagicJack allows telephone communication through your computer, online courses abound. Librarians continue to create and populate repositories and share information and resources and support institutional initiatives. Respect and communication is what draws us together as colleagues and sustains us in times of tight budgets. This conference also provides an opportunity to brainstorm about possible collaboration with the IOC. What will be included in our next MOU?

Our theme this year is Sustainability in a Changing Climate. This theme pertains not only to physical climate change that is being experienced worldwide, but it can also describe our profession. It is fitting that the location of this year's conference is Fiji, in the Pacific, where climate change and rising sea level are producing palpable changes not only to the physical environment but to the biodiversity and the local lifestyles.

My thanks go to the Conference Planning Committee who widely represent IAMS LIC: Catalina Lopez, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California-Campus Ensenada Biblioteca; Peter Fritzler, University of North Carolina Wilmington; Cathy Norton, Marine Biological Laboratory/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MBLWHOI Library; Geoffrey Salanje, University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture, Library; Ruth Gustafson, University of California Davis, Shields Library, Biological and Agricultural Sciences Reference Department; Bart Goossens, Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek

My most sincere thanks go to the local committee who made every detail of the conference memorable. They are Maria Kalenchits, Librarian/PIMRIS Coordinator, USP, Local Arrangements Coordinator; Dorene Naidu, Library Services Officer, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission; Sin Joan Yee, University Librarian, USP Library; Vina Ram-Bidesi, Senior Lecturer, School of Marine Studies, USP Verenaisi Bavadra, Librarian, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji; Vilimaina Vakaciwa, Head of Section of Regional Libraries, USP Library.

Thanks to Lenora Oftedahl for taking care of the Guin auction and for posting the daily conference blog and photos.

Almost 70 people registered for the Fiji conference, the majority coming from the Pacific region. It is an opportunity to welcome new members into the organization and create new friendships and collaborations. IAMSLIC has given me an opportunity to travel all over the world and meet wonderful colleagues. I hope that those who attended the Fiji conference will also be fortunate enough to attend future IAMSLIC conferences and continue to sustain our profession.